

Michigan Food Policy Council Update

House Agriculture Committee

April 18, 2007

Background

- Created by Executive Order 2005-13 and funded in part by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- The MFPC is an advisory body to identify policies that connect Michigan's food system to vibrant economies and healthy communities. Policy recommendations focus on:
 - Increasing food-related economic activity in Michigan.
 - Improving access to fresh and healthy foods.
 - Promoting and expanding markets for Michigan foods.
 - Enhancing the viability of Michigan farms.
 - Increasing collaboration between state departments and private partners and maximizing coordination of existing federal, state, and local resources.

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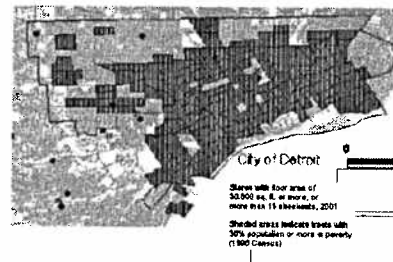
Mission

The Michigan Food Policy Council (MFPC) cultivates a safe, healthy and available food supply for all of Michigan's residents while building on the state's agricultural diversity to enhance economic growth.

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Issues and Trends: Food Deserts



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Taken from K. Pottebaum, The Detroit Food System (2003)

Issues and Trends: Buying Michigan Foods

- Nearly 4 million households in Michigan¹
- Over \$7.3 billion is spent on food for consumption at home²
- If 10% of at-home food purchases were spent on Michigan grown and processed food, it would bring in over \$730 million annually to the state's economy.²



¹From U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

²Poundage based on Table 1 current poundage intake; Dollar expenditures based on U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (2002)

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Council Members



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Task Forces

- Task Force A: Expanding food-related businesses and jobs
- Task Force B: Improving access to fresh and healthy foods
- Task Force C: Promoting Michigan foods
- Task Force D: Enhancing agricultural viability

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Recommendations

- 20 recommendations
- Each recommendation has:
 - Policy statement
 - Explanation
 - List of implementation strategies
- Developed with input from:
 - Regional public listening sessions
 - Presentations at task force and council meetings
 - Council and task force members
 - Open meetings

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Recommendations

Growing the agri-food economy

- Agri-food entrepreneurship
- Support for food processing
- Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones
- Supermarkets in underserved locations

Cultivating Agricultural Viability

- Farmland Preservation
- New Market Development
- Michigan Agricultural Viability
- Farmers and Farm Workforce
- Role of MSU Extension

Accessing fresh and healthy foods

- Healthy Food Access through Direct Markets
- Community and urban gardens
- Food Assistance Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Nutrition Education
- Emergency Food Needs

Promoting Michigan Foods

- Select Michigan Program
- Farm-to-School
- Dept. of Corrections Michigan food purchases
- Support for Farmers' Markets

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Implementation Progress

- Buy Michigan First
 - DMB and MDOC modified contracts in 2006 cycle to include a "Michigan food" column, resulting in \$2 million of additional Michigan food purchases.
 - Michigan potato farmer awarded \$550,000 MDOC contract to supply fresh, bulk potatoes to Newberry correctional facility. Potato processing equipment included in contract saves state money.
- EBT access at farmers' markets
 - Pilot project in development for this season.
- Development of agri-food Regional Skill Alliances.
 - One designated in thumb area, three more in development.

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Questions

- More Information and copies of the report at: www.michigan.gov/mfpc
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